

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 JUSE-00 FBIE-00 MCT-01 EB-08

NEA-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSC-05 L-03 SY-05 /090 W

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FM USMISSION USUN NY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2415

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

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DEPT PASS JUSTICE - FRANK NILAND AND JAMES ROBINSON

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, UR

SUBJECT: DEMONSTRATION AND VIGIL AT AEROFLOT OFFICES IN NEW YORK

1. ON MONDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 1977, FROM 12:00 NOON UNTIL 1:00 PM APPROXIMATELY 30 INDIVIDUALS REPRESENTING THE GREATER NEW YORK CONFERENCE ON SOVIET JEWRY HELD A DEMONSTRATION IN FRONT OF THE AEROFLOT OFFICES, 545 FIFTH AVENUE. IT WAS ANNOUNCED AS THE FIRST OF A YEAR-LONG DAILY ONE HOUR "FREEDOM VIGIL" TO BE HELD AT EITHER AEROFLOT OR SOME OTHER SOVIET INSTALLATION IN NEW YORK CITY.

2. THE PLAN IS TO HAVE VARIOUS JEWISH ORGANIZATIONS, SYNAGOGUES, YOUTH GROUPS, ETC., ASSIGNED ONE DAY A YEAR. EACH GROUP WILL BE URGED TO BRING A MINIMUM OF SIX MEMBERS, REPRESENTING THE SIX MILLION JEWS WHO DIED IN THE "HOLOCAUST". DEMONSTRATORS WILL WEAR A YELLOW STAR OF DAVID.

3. CHAIRMAN AND ORGANIZER OF THE VIGIL, NEW YORK CITY

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OFFICIAL HONORABLE ROBERT ABRAMS, BRONX BOROUGH PRESIDENT WAS PRESENT AT TODAY'S INITIAL DEMONSTRATION AND STATED THE MAIN PURPOSE OF THE VIGIL IS A "CONTINUAL REMINDER TO THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT THAT WE WILL NEVER FORGET OUR COMMITMENT TO SOVIET JEWS".

4. THE DEMONSTRATION WAS PEACEFUL AND THERE WERE NO

INCIDENTS OR ARRESTS. A SIZEABLE POLICE DETAIL WAS PRESENT IN RESPONSE TO F.B.I. INFORMATION THAT MEMBERS OF THE JEWISH DEFENSE LEAGUE WOULD JOIN THE DEMONSTRATION AND ATTEMPT TO SIT-IN OR OTHERWISE DISRUPT THE AEROFLOT OFFICES. POLICE MAINTAINED FREE ACCESS TO AEROFLOT THROUGHOUT DEMONSTRATION. MEMBERS OF THE MILITANT JEWISH DEFENSE LEAGUE AND SAVE OUR ISRAEL ORGANIZATIONS WERE PRESENT, HOWEVER NO DISRUPTIONS TOOK PLACE. INSTEAD, THIS GROUP OF APPROXIMATELY 15 INDIVIDUALS STAYED THEIR OWN DEMONSTRATION FROM 1:00 PM UNTIL 1:15 PM, WHICH WAS ALSO PEACEFUL.

5. NUMEROUS PLACARDS WERE CARRIED BY THE GREATER NEW YORK CONFERENCE GROUP, ONE OF WHICH CALLED FOR A GATHERING IN WASHINGTON, D.C. ON JULY 17, 1977 AT 1:30 PM.

6. ALTHOUGHT THE GREATER NEW YORK CONFERENCE ON SOVIET JEWRY DOES NOT ENCOURAGE PARTICIPATION BY JDL AND SOIL, IT IS EXPECTED THESE TWO GROUPS WILL CONTINUE THEIR ATTEMPTS TO JOIN THE DAILY VIGIL AND IF NOT SUCCESSFUL, MAY RESORT TO DISRUPTIVE TACTICS.
BENNETT

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Concepts: PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS, JEWS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 14-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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